



COMMANDO

Any Time, Any Place

Vol. 55, Issue 8

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Feb. 24, 2006



Photographs by Chief Master Sgt. Gary Emery

Airman 1st Class Kyle Kramer observes Special Tactics Airmen landing after a High Altitude, Low Opening parachute jump. Airman Kramer and his combat control team were on hand to secure the drop zone and provide weather data.

AF commercial team visits Commandos

by Master Sgt. Stuart Camp
Superintendent, public affairs

Special operators at Hurlburt Field were captured in action by the Air Force's advertising company Feb. 14-15. A team of 10 civilians will use interviews and footage of local heroes to develop recruiting ads for television and the Web.

The guests were part of GSD&M, a television production company contracted by the Air Force to produce recruiting commercials. A new series of Air Force recruiting commercials was recently given the go-ahead by AF Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. Broadcast of these new ads is expected in August with an associated Website featuring longer-length versions of the 30-second TV commercials.

"The kids aren't buying the glitzy Hollywood ads," said Sean Keith, GSD&M art director.

Armed with little more than small hand-held digital video recorders, the team flew with the 4th, 15th and 20th Special Operations squadrons and visited with the 720th Special Tactics Group.

"The new round of commercials is called 'Do Something Amazing,'" said Capt. Tom Montgomery, AFSOC Public Affairs. "The new commercials have an up-close and personal feel. Air Commandos have really exciting jobs, and there was action happening literally feet from the camera lens."

Doubling as a cameraman on an MH-53 flight Feb. 15, Mr. Keith captured tail gunner Tech. Sgt. Linwood Stull repair a gun malfunction while

the helicopter was pitching and banking during flight as well as taped Advanced Skills Training students fast-roping from the hovering craft.

"Awesome, but I nearly got sick," Keith said.

According to the producers, the focus of the commercials won't be the technology or the weapons, but it will be placed the men and women performing the mission.

"These are things people, like me, would never see," said GSD&M writer Christopher Staub fresh off the MH-53 mission.



Airman 1st Class Kyle Dalton provides security for an MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopter during an exercise on Feb. 22. Airman Dalton is in the Advanced Skills Training program.

News Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign gets ready to kick off

News Air Force Special Operations Command personnel clean up crash site in Albania

Feature



FitFactor program keeps kids active

Sports



Varsity basketball season ends

Wingman

0-0-1-3
0 Drinks under 21
0 DUIs
1 Drink an hour
3 Drinks a night

Weather

	High	Low
Today	67	50
Sat.	65	55
Sun.	65	47

Home of America's Air Commandos

Train Airmen to fill shoes of past leaders

by Senior Master Sgt. Mike Sowder
20th OSS

For most people in Air Force Special Operations Command, when they hear the words, "fight and win," they think of going to war in Iraq or Afghanistan. I must admit I thought the same thing at first. After, I thought about it for a couple of days and it was like the old cliché of a light going on. For those who know me, you know that doesn't happen often, but believe it or not, the light came on for this one.

"Fight and win" isn't just for those who signed the dotted line and joined the military. Fight and win goes deeper than that – much deeper. What about the families we leave behind for deployments? How do they "fight and win" to keep the household going while we are off "fighting and winning" the war? More importantly, how can we help them fight and win while we are gone?

Here are some ideas before you go: Check your will—does it say what you want it to? Are you going to allow the State to dictate who gets

Aimpoint

Fight and win

any of your possessions if something happens to you while your gone?

Do you need a power of attorney—does your spouse or legal representative have everything they need to make sure the bills are paid and the children are taken care of? If the car breaks down or is wrecked, can they sell it and get a new one?

Finances—are they squared away? Will the rent or mortgage get paid? Can your family afford to eat?

Ensure the squadron calls once a week—find a specific individual (not always the first sergeant or commander) who knows how to get in touch with your family. It's always nice to hear from the squadron that deployed family members are getting along well or that maybe you would like to have some of those special cookies from "Mom."

Likewise, it's good for your family to have a named person to contact if they have problems or just need to talk about things if they are getting

extra stressful.

Hide notes around the house before you leave and periodically let them know where one is. Little surprises don't have to be some sort of a gift, but a nice poem or singlet can bring a smile when nothing else can. Helping your family stay happy will make it easier on you, too.

I found the hardest time for my family was the first week after I deployed. They didn't know where I was until they received an e-mail or phone call. We definitely have it good when it comes to keeping in touch with our loved ones. Don't wait a week after you get to your location to let them know you've made it and you are fine.

Yes, we may be fine, but our loved ones trying to "fight and win" back home may not be because they are worried sick about not hearing from you.

These are but a few things you can do to help those left behind to "fight and win" the war on the home front. If my light can come on, then the light in the house will stay on because my family knows we are both here to "fight and win."

RED HORSE looks back on ORI experience

by Col. James Lyon

Commander, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron

Sometimes you just never see the train wreck coming. The 823rd RED HORSE Squadron was subjected to an Air Combat Command Operational Readiness Inspection in August 2005, and we thought we were ready.

In fact, we thought we were going to send the Inspector General back to Langley Air Force Base with their tails between their legs.

We're RED HORSE; we deploy all the time – this is chump change. Boy, were we wrong. We had practiced processing countless tons of vehicles and equipment for air shipment and five full-blown field exercises on the Eglin Air Force Base range, but it wasn't enough.

The ACC IG got here and picked us apart, piece by piece, hammering us on details we thought we had down pat. The result was a failed ORI and a "see you in six

months" invite to try it again.

Fast forward to Feb. 2 of this year and we were once again staring down the IG barrel, but this time we knew, I mean really knew, that we were ready. The preparations we went through between August and February were excruciatingly painful; but sure enough, the inspection began and we sailed through it with flying colors.

The hard work and effort paid off when RED HORSE earned an overall satisfactory rating, the highest overall rating a unit can earn on a retake.

So, what was the difference between the August ORI and the February ORI?

The difference is experts, both internal and external.

The part of the first ORI that we really fell flat on our face was the phase I portion – deployment processing. During our first round of preparations, we had a relative-

See RED HORSE, Page 22

ORI preparation

Reporting an attack: S-A-L-U-T-E

Use the S-A-L-U-T-E report as a quick and effective way to communicate ground enemy attack information up the chain of command.

Size – The number of persons and vehicles seen or the size of an object

Activity – Description of enemy activity (assaulting, fleeing, observing)

Location – Where the enemy was

sighted (grid coordinate or reference point)

Unit – Distinctive signs, symbols or identification on people, vehicles, aircraft or weapons

Time – Time the activity is observed

Equipment – Equipment and vehicles associated with the activity

Use the most expedient means necessary/possible for the urgency

you place on the information you have to up channel. If your report needs to get to the commander now use any means possible:

Messenger – Most secure, most time consuming

Wire/telephone – More secure than radio, not mobile and may be monitored

Radio – Fast and mobile, least secure. However, a secure radio lessens the possibility of being monitored and should always be used over an open net

See page 95 of the Airman's Manual for more information.

16th SOW Aimpoints

■ Fight and win

■ Take best care of our wingmen, families and resources

■ Become the next generation of Air Force and Air Commando leaders

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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is noon Monday for briefs the week of publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call.

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to the base commander for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the COMMANDO.

Other questions will be answered by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give the commander a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

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DUI Tracker

Feb. 17-23: 1 DUI

This year: 5

DUIs for 2005: 31

Last DUI: 4th Special Operations Squadron

Days since last DUI: 4

16th OG ... 4

16th MXG ... 39

16th MSG ... 20

16th MDG ... 421

Totals are current as of Feb. 16.

Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 116

Green wants you!

Operation 'Blue to Green' offers separating Airmen opportunities to continue their careers

**by Airman 1st Class
James Dickens
Editor**

The Army is offering Airmen who are being force shaped, forced to retrain or just looking for a change – a way to continue their military careers.

With 55,000 Airmen planned to be cut by 2011, the "Blue to Green" program may be the only way to keep rank and stay in the military.

"One day you will come into work with Air Force rank and the next day with Army rank," said Master Sgt. Mayra Casanova, career advisor.

Hurlburt Field has already had a few people take advantage of this program.

"Most Airmen coming to see us are getting force shaped, not getting promoted fast enough or just want come into the Army and fight the enemy," said Sergeant 1st Class Sharon Mayo, local

Army recruiter.

Airmen can go from blue to green by getting a conditional release from the Air Force and signing up for the Army.

If an Airman's Air Force specialty code matches with an Army military operation specialty, then it is possible to keep the same job.

"The program is really good for people in over-manned career fields," said Senior Master Sgt. David

Ceurvals, 16th Special Operations Wing career advisor. "If an Airman can't get a (career job reservation) and doesn't want to cross train, then this program is perfect for them."

Airmen basic through senior airmen crossing over to the Army will maintain their grade, while staff sergeants and above are on a case-by-case basis. Officers will also retain their grade and date of rank.

Applicants must meet the Army's physical training standards and attend a four-week warrior transition course.

"The warrior transition course shows Airmen the tactical side of the Army," said Sergeant Mayo.

After this, they will be sent to their post if they don't have a training school to attend.

For more information on the program, call Sergeant Mayo at 244-3077.

'Shore' thing: Destroyed by Hurricane Ivan, an Eglin recreation beach facility is about to begin reconstruction

**by Lois Walsh
96th ABW Public Affairs**

Beachgoers will be pleased to know that reconstruction of the beach recreation facility is about to begin.

The facility, located on Okaloosa Island, was an extremely popular place for families to enjoy the surf and sun.

However, Hurricane Ivan changed all that when it made short work of the structure, demolishing it in a few short hours.

Contract manager Steve Daugherty, 796th Civil Engineer Squadron, said reconstruction of the facility will be in two phases; the first, 20,000 square feet of open deck area, encompassing six pavilions and two rest-rooms. The second phase will include a restaurant and shops. The facility will be built up to eight feet above the beach, allowing storm surges to flow

under, not through, the deck.

Approximately \$733,000 has been allocated for Phase 1; funding is currently not available for the second phase. The contract is for 260 days, which puts the opening on Sept. 23.

"I hope the contractor will finish it up earlier so we can get use over it this summer," Mr. Daugherty said. "Once he actually drives the pilings, we'll have a better indication of how long the construction will be."

Mr. Daugherty said the contract was signed in September but environmental permitting had to take place before construction. He received the notice to proceed Jan. 6.

Base architect Eugene Moorer said the look of the facility is based on a 1997 award winning design.

"Why reinvent the wheel," he said. "We decided to stick to that project

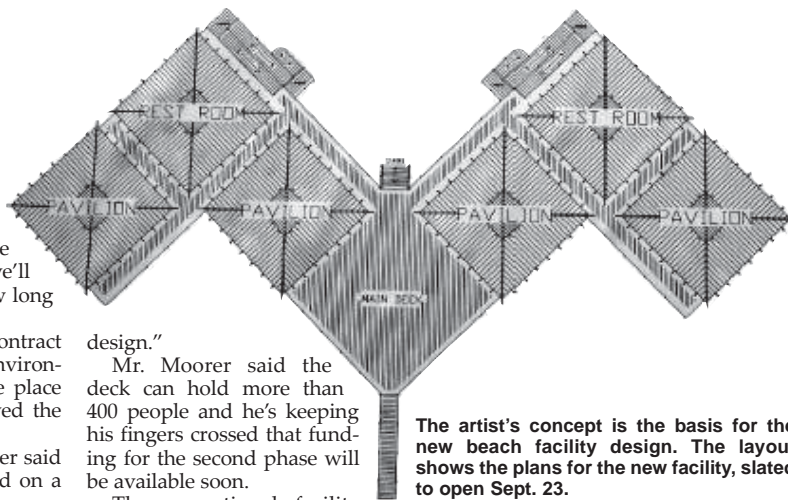
design."

Mr. Moorer said the deck can hold more than 400 people and he's keeping his fingers crossed that funding for the second phase will be available soon.

The recreational facility will be open to anyone with a Department of Defense identification

The artist's concept is the basis for the new beach facility design. The layout shows the plans for the new facility, slated to open Sept. 23.

card, including civilians and retirees, at no cost.



Hurlburt converts Web site **by Staff Sgt. Marashah Haynes COMMANDO staff**

The 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs office will be publishing a new Web site beginning today.

The new Web site is part of standardizing all Air Force base Web sites, and will look similar to the Air Force Link. The change will be transparent to viewers. Viewers will use the same web address for the old site, www.hurlburt.af.mil, and be automatically redirected to the new site.

The new site will contain Air Force videos, news clips from across the Air Force, and military photos and art work.

For more information call the public affairs office at 884-7464.

AFAF campaign kicks off in near future

**by Airman 1st Class
James Dickens
Editor**

The 2006 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign will kick off at 8 a.m. March 10 in the Aderholt Fitness Center gym.

In 2005 more than \$132,000 was raised and donated to the fund. Of the money \$72,136 was donated to the AFAS, which in turn gave back more than \$227,000 to Hurlburt Field Airmen and their families.

The AFAF was established in order to provide assistance to the Air Force family in three major areas of need – emergency assistance grants

"These programs provide a lot of help and assistance to our active and retired Airmen and families,"

**2nd Lt. Dave Mueller,
AFAF installation project officer**

and zero-interest loans, education grants and community programs.

Through donations to four charitable organizations – the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Foundation, Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation and the Air Force Village Foundation – the

AFAF is able to provide members with emergency assistance, funding for education, and a secured retirement home for widows and widowers.

Donations to the campaign can be made in cash, check or payroll deduction.

"We're hoping to have high base participation and exceed our goals," said 2nd Lt. Dave Mueller, AFAF installation project officer. "These programs provide a lot of help and assistance to our active and retired Airmen and families."

For more information, call the AFAF installation project officers, Capt. Jonathan Cotton at 884-3019 or Lt. Mueller at 884-5846.

AFSOC CE cleans up crash site

by Amy Oliver
Chief,
Community Relations

On March 31, 2005, eight Air Force Special Operations Command crew members from the 7th Special Operations Squadron, 352nd Special Operations Group, and one crew member from Detachment 2, 25th Intelligence Operations Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, died when their MC-130H Combat Talon II crashed in mountainous southern Albania, near the remote village of Rovia.

The crash affected not only the families of the fallen heroes but also the people of Albania and their natural resources.

In June 2005, Art Kolodziejski, AFSOC Environmental Division and project manager of the crash site clean-up, traveled to Albania to assess the crash site. He tested soil, groundwater and surface water for contamination levels and returned to Hurlburt Field to devise a clean-up plan.

"Albania has no specific environmental legislation governing how they must treat contamination, and they lack the financial means and infrastructure to effectively address the problems," said Mr. Kolodziejski.

"So we cleaned it up for

"While nothing can bring back these fallen Airmen, the coalition formed during this clean-up project will long be remembered..."

Art Kolodziejski
AFSOC lead engineer for environmental restoration

them, for the same reason we do here at home, because it's the right thing to do," said John Steele, AFSOC Environmental Division and project scientist for the clean-up effort.

After analyzing the test results and devising a plan to clean up the site, Mr. Kolodziejski and Mr. Steele returned to Albania in September 2005 with Chris Hood, a Department of Defense contractor. They met with the Office of Defense Cooperation and United States Embassy officials to discuss the details of the plan. They also met with Albanian mayors and coordinated local support.

They hired a dozen local workers and contracted locally for supplies and equipment. Additionally during the two-week project, the team lived in a small house in Rovia, whose residents were the first responders after the crash.

They endured rustic living conditions such as limited plumbing and electricity, dined with the villagers

on customary cuisine such as rotisserie goat, and traveled the two-and-a-half-mile one-way trip each day to the crash site by foot, alongside the local workers.

"By getting them involved in the project, they took ownership and showed pride in the job they did," said Mr. Steele.

By the end of September, they'd removed, transported and disposed of two tons of debris. Soil contaminated by fuel was excavated, aired out and replaced onto the mountain trail. They removed dead and decaying vegetation and devised erosion control measures to ensure the stability of the site. Finally, they landscaped the site to improve the aesthetics of the area.

Most importantly, they removed the source of contamination, improved the stability of the site and were embraced by the U.S. Ambassador and families of fallen heroes for their actions.

They also made a very personal impact on the resi-

dents of Rovia, Albania and the city of Kukur, located approximately eight miles away, where most of the workers lived.

Not only did they clean up the site, they also developed friendships, effectively winning the hearts and minds of the local community.

When the project was finished, a ceremony was held in Kukur where the AFSOC environmental team thanked the community for the support they provided for the clean-up effort. U.S. Ambassador to Albania, Marcie B. Ries, and the father of deceased pilot, Capt. Todd Bracy, attended the ceremony.

"At the ceremony, the deputy mayor of Kukur, Fatmir Shuli, said that his city would look upon the crew members who died as their own sons," said Mike Applegate, chief of AFSOC Environmental Division.

"He said that they are part of the mountain now, and his city will memorialize the crash site."

"While nothing can bring back these fallen Airmen, the coalition formed during this clean-up project will long be remembered in the villages of Rovia and Kukur, Albania, as well as in the AFSOC community," said Mr. Kolodziejski.



U.S. Navy photograph by Journalist 2nd Class Brian Biller

The amphibious dock landing ship **USS Harpers Ferry** prepares to recover a Landing Craft Utility in her well deck Feb. 22.

Brothers In Arms

Army

WASHINGTON – The nature of the threat facing the U.S. military has changed drastically, and soldiers need to grow and become more flexible to face that threat, the Army chief of staff said here Feb. 17.

In an interview with the Pentagon Channel, Army Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said the Army now faces an asymmetrical threat, so soldiers must be prepared to perform many different functions, ranging from high-end combat and untraditional warfare to stability operations and homeland defense.

Navy and Marines

SOUTHERN LEYTE, Philippines – More than 300 Marines and Sailors with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Joint Task Force Balikatan are in St. Bernard City to assist in the search and rescue efforts of more than 1,000 Filipinos who are missing after a disastrous landslide that blanketed a nearby village Feb. 17.

The Marines and Sailors landed here aboard CH-46E Sea Knights and CH-53E Super Stallions from the **USS Essex** and **USS Harper's Ferry**, which are positioned off the coast here.

Good Conduct Medal award elimination explained

by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force Uniform Board announced Feb. 6 that the Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded.

The Air Force director of Airman development and sustainment recently explained the reasons behind this decision.

"The quality of our enlisted personnel today is so high, we expect good conduct from our Airmen," said Brig. Gen Robert R. Allardice. "It begged the question, 'Why do we have a Good Conduct Medal?'"

"Having a medal for good conduct is almost to say we don't expect Airmen to do well, but if they're good we will give them a medal," he said.

One must look at the history of

why the medal was created in the 1960s. The military was using the draft and involved in the Vietnam War. The Air Force didn't have any other method to recognize Airmen. Today, the Air Force Achievement Medal recognizes outstanding Airmanship.

"When we looked at that history it was clear that the Good Conduct Medal has outlived its usefulness," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. "Today's all-volunteer force is committed to serving honorably, and good conduct is what we expect from every Airman — officer and enlisted."

"We live by our core values," Chief Murray said. "When members of our service stray from those values, they do themselves and all Airmen a dis-

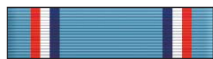
service. When that happens, commanders have the tools they need to evaluate the situation and the individual's worthiness for service.

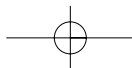
"If a commander deems their conduct does not warrant discharge, then they remain a valuable Airman to our Air Force, and we expect them to continue to serve honorably," he said.

General Allardice said that it is the uniform, not the Good Conduct Medal, that represents what Airmen are all about.

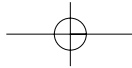
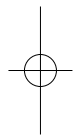
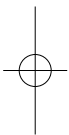
"In today's Air Force, our Airmen understand that the uniform they wear represents good conduct," he said.

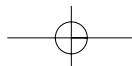
Airmen who have previously earned the Good Conduct Medal are still authorized to wear it.





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Chief master sergeant of Air Force testifies on quality of life issues Feb. 15

by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray testified on Capitol Hill Feb. 15 about Air Force quality of life issues before the House Appropriations Committee subcommittee on military quality of life, veterans affairs and related agencies.

"I truly believe, and I think you'll agree, that our Airmen's quality of performance is directly related to their quality of life," Chief Murray said.

Chief Murray cited the current top three quality issues for Airmen – pay and benefits, housing availability and costs and education.

"Our education is critical to the 21st century capabilities of our

force," he said. "We've come to expect more from our Airmen today than ever before, and even more will be expected of them in the future."

He said the value of education benefits is particularly important to Airmen with the ongoing Air Force transformation.

"Education enables members to fulfill personal goals, stimulates innovation and critical thinking and improves overall force readiness effectiveness," Chief Murray said. "Knowledge and innovation are inherent to our Air Force heritage and service cultures. Education benefits are a win-win for all our services and it must remain strong."

Chief Murray explained how the air expeditionary force construct has been a great benefit to the Air Force transformation and quality of life.

"Our AEF organization is a model of global agility, efficiency and military effectiveness - a modern design for a modern world," he said. "Our 21st century force is 40 percent smaller than that Cold War force we went into Desert Storm with. It is, however, vastly more capable, more agile and more lethal than before."

"The AEF provides lethality and economy of forces for in-theatre combatant commanders while providing predictability and stability at home – a huge quality of life bonus for our Airmen and their families," he said.

Chief Murray also addressed possible future quality of life concerns for Airmen and their families.

"Health care would be a higher concern, but right now it is given; as long as it is given, our Airmen are

satisfied," he said. "But, because of the interest right now in health care and the rising costs to it, it is up on the scope."

Another future Air Force quality of life challenge is the environment it faces with changes made as a result of Base Realignment and Closure and Quadrennial Defense Review.

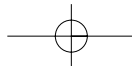
Chief Murray said the balancing between modernization of the force and force structure, which calls for the reduction of more than 40,000 total force members, is high on the minds of Airmen.

"Your Air Force has laid out a good plan to do (this) and we will continue to take great care of our people in doing so," he said.

Chief Murray testified for the last time on Capitol Hill as he will retire later this year.

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Civilian sector biggest space customer

by Louis A. Arana-Barradas
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO – The head of Air Force Space Command said people might be surprised to learn that corporate America is the biggest user of Air Force space products.

Gen. Lance W. Lord said the main reason for this is the reliability of space-based assets and because the technologies – which are giving coalition forces an edge on the global war on terrorism – can be adapted for use in a variety of civilian applications.

The relationship is lucrative for the civilian sector. The global economic impact of space is an estimated \$209 billion, the general said. Its use in space transportation, satellite communications, global positioning systems, or GPS, and remote sensing contributed \$91 billion to the global economy in 2003 and involved half a million jobs in the United States alone. Plus, command space acquisitions and operations contribute \$11

billion annually to the U.S. economy.

"Removing space capabilities from our way of life would not only cripple our combat forces, but it would have catastrophic consequences on our entire economy," General Lord said.

As an example, the general said, "Every time you take money out of the ATM or pay with a credit at the gas station, you're using GPS." The navigation system available on some new cars also uses GPS technology.

Americans have come to depend on the commercial applications of space products and experience hardships when a system goes down. General Lord cited one example in 1998, when a commercial satellite lost its Earth orientation.

The glitch wiped out "40 million pagers in the United States, halting credit card transactions and ATM machines," he said. It also knocked television and radio stations off the air.

To help maintain a viable space system, General Lord commands the

"Every time you take money out of the ATM or pay with a credit at the gas station, you're using GPS."

**Gen. Lance Lord,
Air Force Space Command**

nearly 40,000 space professionals. They run a global network of satellite command and control, communications, missile warning and launch facilities and maintain the combat readiness of the nation's intercontinental ballistic missile force.

One important job space operators do is track all man-made objects in space. This provides information that helps object deconfliction to allow commercial space launches.

In addition, space assets are helping provide more accurate weather forecasts. That was the case when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

"The devastation we saw as a result of Hurricane Katrina would

have been the tip of the iceberg if not for the early warning provided from space," the general said.

And GPS technology – the same as the military uses – is more important than ever to the civilian first-response community, he said. It is helping worldwide civilian search and rescue operations become more efficient by pinpointing the exact location of people in need.

"It's estimated that 18,000 people worldwide were saved with the help of satellite-aided search and rescue with 5,000 of those in the United States," he said.

The use of space technologies will only continue to increase in the future. There will also be an increased need to continue coming up with technological advances, the general said.

This will help cut the price of doing business in all sectors.

"America needs space for its national security – and the survival of our way of life," General Lord said.

**PLATINUM TEAM SO REALTY
CS/LISTINGS
606689
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Ride to 'Retire Debt' scheduled

by Jodi Jordan

Air Force Enlisted Village

Caring for military people and their families is one of the job requirements for first sergeants. That mentality doesn't stop with retirement, however, as one former Hurlburt Field first sergeant is proving.

Senior Master Sgt. Sue Holler, a retired Air Force first sergeant who was once assigned to the 16th Mission Support Squadron at Hurlburt Field is both an organizer and a participant in the Ride to Retire the Debt at Lake Okeechobee. Money raised from the event will be used to repay construction costs from Hawthorn House, the Air Force Enlisted Village's assisted living home.

"Hawthorn House provides a place for Air Force widows who can no longer live independently," Sergeant Holler said. "It's a wonderful place, with a caring staff that treats these spouses with dignity and love."

Sergeant Holler has been an active volunteer at the village for several years, and she was looking for a unique way to help pay back the debt incurred from building Hawthorn House. She and friend Pat Tye, who also works at the village, came up with a two-day bicycle trek around Lake Okeechobee, the second-largest freshwater lake located entirely within the United States.

Cyclists and volunteers are invited to hit the road with them on March 26. Participants will average about 60 miles per day to complete the circuit, or they can choose to ride a shorter distance. Support vehicles manned by volunteers will then transport riders and their bikes to the next stop.

Military members may be allowed to attend the event in permissive temporary duty status. Unit commanders can allow permissive TDY in accordance with Permissive TDY Rule 32 in Air Force Instruction 36-3003. Those not able to attend can still be a part of the event by sponsor-



Photograph by Jodi Jordan

Retired Senior Master Sgt. Sue Holler, bike during a recent training run for the Ride to Retire the Debt.

ing a rider.

"The area around the lake is still largely rural, and a great place to view a wide variety of birds and animals in their natural habitat," Mrs. Tye said. "Bicycling is a great speed to see it all."

Donors who give \$100 or more will be recognized in the Voice of Hope, the AFEV's quarterly newsletter that reaches more than 40,000 people.

Sponsors donating \$500 in cash, equipment or support will be recognized in the newsletter, as well as the AFEV's website. Donors who give \$1000 or more will receive a personalized brick in the Garden of Hope, located at Bob Hope Village in Shalimar.

"We'd love everyone to be able to come out," Sergeant Holler said. "But if you can't come out, pledge to support a rider. It's for a great cause close to all of our hearts - our Air Force widows."

For information on how to participate or make a pledge, call Mrs. Tye at (800) 258-1413 or visit www.afenlistedwidows.org in the Ride to Retire the Debt section.

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First black graduate of West Point remembered

Courtesy of the National Park Service

On Feb. 19, 1999, President Bill Clinton posthumously pardoned 2nd Lt. Henry O. Flipper.

The event came 59 years after his death and 117 years after the young lieutenant had been dismissed from the U.S. Army. A short statement penned by President Chester Arthur in June 1882, upholding the court-martial sentence of dismissal, had signaled the end to his military career.

At age 21, Flipper became the first black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. His assignment in July 1877 to the 10th U.S. Cavalry, one of two black cavalry regiments organized after the Civil War, was the realization of a personal dream.

In the fall of 1880, Lieutenant Flipper was court-martialed for embezzlement of commissary funds in violation of the 60th Article of War, and for "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" under Article 61. Flipper pleaded not guilty to both charges. Although the court found him not guilty of embezzlement, he was convicted of the second charge for making a false statement, for signing financial records he knew to be incorrect and for writing a check on a non-existent bank account. By regulations, this conviction carried an automatic sentence of dismissal from the army.

Early Schooling

Born into slavery at Thomasville, Ga., March 21, 1856, Flipper's education began when he was eight years old in the wood shop of another slave. Flipper later attended schools operated by the American Missionary Association and entered Atlanta University when it was established in 1869.

Military Career

The future cavalry officer's military journey began in January 1873 when he wrote to James Freeman, newly-elected Georgia congressman, asking to be appointed to West Point.

Freeman responded that he would recommend Flipper if he proved "worthy and

qualified." A series of letters exchanged between the two, ultimately resulted in Freeman nominating Flipper to the Academy. Flipper passed the required examinations and officially entered West Point on July 1, 1873.

Flipper's four years as a cadet were characterized by above average grades earned in an environment of almost total social isolation from his classmates. When he graduated in 1877, he ranked 50th in a class of 76. He was assigned, along with four other graduates, to the 10th Cavalry and soon found himself stationed on the frontier at Fort Sill, Indian Territory.

Early in 1879, Flipper's Company A transferred to Fort Elliott, Texas. In November, the unit returned to Fort Sill where Flipper served briefly as the commander of Company G.

While at Fort Sill, Flipper was detailed as the post's engineer and ordered to survey and supervise the construction of a drainage system to eliminate a number of stagnant ponds blamed for causing malaria. His efforts were successful, and in 1877, what became known as "Flipper's Ditch" was designated a Black Heritage Military Site.

In May, 1880 Company A left Fort Sill taking station at Fort Concho, Texas, on June 17. Two weeks later, the company was one of several in the field pursuing the elusive Apache leader, Victorio, and his small band of warriors who were raiding on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Flipper arrived at Fort Davis on Nov. 29, 1880 and soon was assigned the duties of acting assistant quartermaster and acting commissary of subsistence. He temporarily served as quartermaster until the regimental headquarters of the 1st U. S. Infantry, with its commander Col. William R. Shafter, arrived in March 1881.

All seemed to be going well for the only black officer in the army, until some com-

missary funds he was responsible for turned up missing. Stalling for time and fearing Colonel Shafter, who had the reputation of being a strict disciplinarian, Flipper tried to

conceal the loss. These actions resulted in the court-martial. The trial was held in the post chapel at Fort Davis. Flipper was ably defended by Capt. Merritt Barber who volunteered to serve as counsel. In reviewing the trial the

Judge Advocate General, the Army's chief legal officer, recommended a punishment other than dismissal. President Arthur, however, approved the court's sentence.

Civilian Accomplishments

After leaving the army, Flipper attained recognition and respect as a surveyor. In 1890, he opened a civil and mining engineering office in Arizona. From 1893 to 1901, he worked for the U.S. Department of Justice as a special agent for the Court of Private Land Claims. In addition to his primary job of translating Spanish documents, he also surveyed land grants and often appeared as a government witness in court cases.

Flipper was next employed as a resident engineer with a mining company in Mexico. Following the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution, he moved to El Paso. He served as an interpreter and translator in 1919 for a Senate subcommittee on foreign relations, and in 1921, he was appointed a special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior with the Alaskan Engineering Commission. From 1923 to the autumn of 1929, Flipper served as a consultant in South America for a New York-based oil company.

During the years following his dismissal from the army, Flipper maintained his innocence. He sought to clear his name through the only avenue open to him – the passage of a bill by Congress. His first attempt to restore his for-



2nd Lt. Henry O. Flipper

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See **FLIPPER** Page 22

"Airmen's Night Out" celebrates African-American heritage

by **Jamie Haig**
Contractor

The history of African Americans was celebrated through food, story-telling, artwork and drum lessons Wednesday in the community center during the second Airman's Night Out.

More than 40 Airmen held 'passports' to the various locations, allowing them access to the mysteries of the Underground Railroad, genealogy, hip hop music and a time warp back to the day Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala.

Once the passport was stamped in all four areas, the Airmen were given a certificate for four hours of community service.

"We're telling our heritage in a different way," Shirley Sims said. "It's visual and personal."

Upon entering the converted community center, displays of African-American statues, artifacts and artwork were arranged on tables, leading the visitor to the genealogy room.

Monica Woods, retired Civil Service employee, told the Airmen how her sister was able to track down their ancestors. She told the Airmen how they could track their own genealogy through Web sites and other sources.

Another legacy was told through different means.

Earline Bess, a contractor with the 16th Communications Squadron, explained a portion of the history behind the Underground Railroad through quilts and music. As music played softly in the background, Ms. Bess showed Airmen the different designs on the quilts that were a covert language.

"Negro spirituals were secret codes," Ms. Bess said. "These were sung by the slaves for comfort, as a warning, for guidance and entertainment. Secret codes were hidden in these songs as well as in the designs of the quilts they made."

Music also played a role in



A child plays the drums during the African American heritage Airman's Night Out in the community center Wednesday.

Photograph by Jamie Haig

a future generation as the Airmen moved on to the history of hip hop.

Staff Sgt. Cory Walker, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was on hand to explain how hip hop got its start and developed over the past 30 years.

"In the 70s, times were tough and the artists described them through their songs," Sergeant Walker said. "As the years went on, the styles developed and changed, but it always told a story."

Sergeant Walker quizzed the Airmen on different artists and songs, eliciting laughs when he stumped them on who sang what songs.

Another story was told on a bus outside the center.

Airmen boarded the bus where a lone woman sat in the front seat. Airman 1st Class Jennifer Jenkins, 16th Maintenance Operations Squadron, played the part of Rosa Parks while Arnetha Welcome, 16th MOS, gave a brief overview of what happened on Dec. 1, 1955. Airmen were given the chance to ask "Rosa" questions about her role in history.

Moving even further back

in time, the Airmen returned to the community center for a demonstration of West African drums.

Mike Beck, a civilian, makes several different types of drums and gives demonstrations. According to Mr. Beck, the fastest growing percussion instrument in the world is the Djembes (pronounced jim-bay). The base is carved from wood indigenous to Africa and goat skin. It's able to produce two separate tones on one drum, where a standard drum produces only one.

The event's finale was the presentation of the African-American History Month art contest awards. The subject for the contest was Rosa Parks.

Nia Kearney, daughter of Capt. Michael Kearney, 505th Command and Control Wing, won a \$50 savings bond, a certificate for first place and her entry framed.

"A thought inspired my drawing," said Nia. "What her (Ms. Parks) little deed did inspired us all."

"It taught me a lot," Airman Severin said. "Through the stories of the quilts and hip hop, I learned to respect the heritage."

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Special OPERATORS

Congratulations to the following technical sergeants who graduated Feb. 16 from Class 06-2 of the Tyndall NCO Academy:

Distinguished Graduates:

Air Force Special Operations Command
Tech. Sgt. Paul Kieschnick

14th Weapons Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Gary Spann

16th Medical Group

Tech. Sgt.

Natalie Sockman

20th Special Operations Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Clifford Hughes

Graduates:

AFSOC

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Scott

Tech. Sgt.

Marcus Snowden

4th SOS

Tech. Sgt. Bridget

Muszynski

6th SOS

Tech. Sgt. Jason Bucy

Tech. Sgt. Chad Devries

16th Aircraft

Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Campo

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Doughty

16th Component Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Charles Gray Jr.

Tech. Sgt. Steven Herrick

Tech. Sgt. James Shelley

16th Helicopter

Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Glenn Meakin

Tech. Sgt. Eric Necker

Tech. Sgt.

Laurence Shaw III

16th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Tamara Hassell

Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Silver

Tech. Sgt. Jean-Paul Smith

16th Maintenance Group

Tech. Sgt. Dominique Derr

16th MOS

Tech. Sgt. Troy Snyder

16th Medical Support

Squadron

Tech. Sgt.

Nathaniel Sugatan

16th Operations Support Squadron

Tech. Sgt.

Russell Dunfey Jr.

Tech. Sgt. Paul McCarthy

Tech. Sgt. Jason Robbins

Tech. Sgt. Alan Price

16th Security Forces Squadron

Tech. Sgt.

Parrish Hollingsworth

16th Services Squadron

Tech. Sgt.

Tina Todaro

16th Special Operations Wing

Tech. Sgt.

Carol Mesarchik

16th SOS

Tech. Sgt. Susanne Parker

Tech. Sgt.

Rudy Sosa Jr.

720th Operations Support Squadron

Tech. Sgt.

Phillip Freeman Jr.

823rd RED HORSE

Tech. Sgt.

James Bengé

25th Information Operations Squadron

Tech. Sgt.

Kenyon Nessel Jr.

Det. 3, 342nd Training Squadron

Tech. Sgt.

Brian Murray

Det. 7, 373rd Training Squadron

Tech. Sgt.

Charles Parton IV

505th Command and Control Wing

Tech. Sgt.

Gary West

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Babies!

Look who's new
in pink, blue

Girls

Kiera Kinsey Huff was born Jan. 21 to Staff Sgt. Brennen Huff and Margie Gautreau, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Cayla Iyanna Simons was born Jan. 22 to Staff Sgt. Nina and Reggie Simons, 16th Services Squadron.

Brianna Lillian Lane was born Jan. 26 to Senior Airman Carmen and George Lane, 16th Communications Squadron.

Shayla Kimora Grant was born Jan. 26 to Senior Airman Alicia Grant, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron and Staff Sgt. Michael Grant, 53rd Component Systems Squadron.

Tiffany Marie McKenzie was born Jan. 26 to Staff Sgt. Don and Ann McKenzie,

16th Component Maintenance Squadron.

Taylor Airana Nadreau was born Feb. 6 to Staff Sgt. Brian and Ashley Nadreau, 16th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

Leilani Westlund was born Feb. 6 to Senior Airman Mele Westlund, 16th Operation Support Squadron and Staff Sgt. Mitchell Westlund, 46th Weather Squadron.

Boys

Jonathan David Van Buren Jr. was born Jan. 23 to Senior Airman Jonathan and Danetta Van Buren, 16th AMXS.

Kenneth Wayne Tuck III was born Jan. 23 to 2nd Lieutenant Kenneth and Julie Tuck, 16th CS.

Jonathan Lee Black was born Jan. 24 to Senior Airman Shelley and Joshua Black, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron.

Brandon Lee Crouch was born Jan. 31 to Senior Airman Lee and Amanda Crouch, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

Aidan Brooks Birk was born Feb. 7 to Staff Sgt. Matt and Camille Birk, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Spencer Lee Fenton was born Feb. 7 to Airman 1st Class John and Aryn Fenton, 16th AMXS.



Indya Drew (left) hula hoops her way across the gym floor at the youth center at Hurlburt Field youth center. Asysiah Drew (above) brushes up on her soccer skills while she bunts a soccer ball. Children who use the youth center before and after school participate in activities like these. The children's parents can log these activity points toward their goals.

Photographs by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

FitFactor equals fun for Hurlburt children

by Staff Sgt.
Mareshah Haynes
COMMANDO staff

Recently, the Air Force designed a program to make its force fit to fight. Now the Air Force has expanded its fitness goals to children of Air Force members with the FitFactor program.

Hurlburt Field's youth program is looking for children ages 9-18 years old to enroll in the Air Force's FitFactor program. The FitFactor program allows children to earn points and prizes for the physical activi-

ties they are involved in and for their healthy eating habits.

There are five different color-coded levels in the program that children can strive for. The levels are energy, strength, agility, adventure and endurance. Participants win a bracelet and pen according to their level.

If a child logs in at least 500 points per month, he or she is eligible for a bonus prize drawing twice a month.

Other prizes include FitFactor backpacks filled with goodies.

"Children can earn points for things like riding bikes, doing chores and sports practices," said Belinda Ford, school-age program assistant.

"They can get points for just about anything that gets them up and moving, said Stanley Drew, school-age program assistant and FitFactor point of contact. "They can even get points for vacuuming or helping around the house."

"The kids love it, and I can see the difference in them. There is one girl in particular who has more energy since

starting the program, and she's more eager to participate," Mr. Drew said.

"Currently, the enrollment for Hurlburt Field is at 83 children and the youth program has a goal to have 100 children enrolled by the end of April," said Stanley Drew, youth programs director.

Hurlburt Field has the highest enrollment in Air Force Special Operations Command and their numbers rival those of bigger bases, like Eglin Air Force Base.

The program runs all year long and starts over in

October.

Parents can sign their children up for FitFactor at www.afgetfit.com. The site tracks the child's progress and notifies the FitFactor point of contact of the progress each child is making.

Participants can visit the youth center to pick up their prizes.

Anyone interested in enrolling in FitFactor can visit or call Stanley Drew, Katherine Hammer or Charles Vieth at the Hurlburt Field Youth Center at 884-6355/3769.

Military

Change of command

Lt. Col. Ted Fordyce II will take command of the 16th Special Operations Squadron at 2 p.m. today in the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Unit nose dock. Uniform of the day is battle dress uniform.

USAFSOS courses

A Cross-Cultural Communications Course will convene April 10-14 at the USAF Special Operations School. The course is designed for personnel preparing to live or deploy overseas, who work with international military personnel, and those with a professional or analytical interest in international studies. For more information, call Capt. Apryl Cymbal at 884-4472 or Joyce Weber at 884-4731.

The Sub-Saharan Africa Orientation Course will convene April 10-14. This course is designed for personnel preparing to live in or deploy to the sub-Saharan Africa region. For more information, call Capt. Paul Saskiewicz at 884-6793.

Also, the Middle East Orientation Course will convene March 20-24. This course is designed for personnel preparing to live in or deploy to the Middle East, who work with individuals from this region or have a professional or analytical interest in this area. Spouses are welcome to attend on a space-available basis. For more information, call Maj. Don Palmer at 884-7988.

Additionally, information on all three courses is also available at <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou>.

Deployment briefs

A pre-deployment processing briefing is held at 8 a.m. every Wednesday in the Deployment Control Center. Personnel will receive deployment checklists, mobility bags, and required finance, personnel readiness unit and medical group briefings. Post-deployment processing begins at 8 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the DCC. People will be able to speak with representatives from PRU, mobility bags, the 16th Medical Group and finance. For more information, call your unit deployment manager.

HARM hours

The new Host Aviation Resource Management office hours are 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday and Friday closed on wing training days. For more information, call 884-4528.

EOD training

Explosive Ordnance Disposal will



Courtesy photograph

Name the man

This photograph was found in the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs office, and the staff would like to know who he is. If anyone knows him, please e-mail the **COMMANDO** staff at commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

conduct explosive ordnance reconnaissance and post attack reconnaissance training 1-3 p.m. March 8 and May 24, and from 8-10 a.m. April 12 and May 10 in the base theater. Review pages 126-138 of the Airman's Manual before training, and bring it with you to the class. For more information, call 884-7193.

Munitions storage

The munitions storage area will be closed March 13-24 for the semi-annual inventory. All issue and turn-in requests must be received by Tuesday. After Tuesday, emergency issue requests must be approved by the 16th Maintenance Group commander and coordinated through munitions control by calling 884-2011. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kevin Cooke at 884-6687 or Tech. Sgt. Anna Ard at 884-2747.

Community

Flea market

The Air Force Enlisted Village is hosting a Flea Market/Trinkets and Treasures sale 8 a.m. to noon March 4 in the Bob Hope Village Community Center. Outside vendors are welcome; space and tables are \$20. The community center is located at 30 Holly Ave. in Shalimar. For more information, call Becky Brice-Nash at 651-2635.

Base map requests

The 16th Civil Engineer Squadron drafting section is offering an easier way to request copies of base maps and floor plans for your office. Log onto <https://geobase.hurlburt.af.mil> and select the "request map" quick link. For more information, call Jesus Ortega at 884-4546 or Tech. Sgt. Kim Welch at 884-3760.

Chiefs' group

The Hurlburt Field Chiefs' Group sponsors scholarships for seniors who

attend high school in Escambia, Santa Rosa or Okaloosa counties and are dependants of active-duty or retired enlisted members. Applications are available from high school guidance offices. Deadline to apply is April 1. For more information, call 884-5885 or e-mail peter.christofferson.ctr@hurlburt.af.mil.

Base tax center

The base tax center is open in building 90332 and is available to assist people with free tax preparations until April 15. This service is on an appointment-only basis. For an appointment, call 884-7542.

Hearts Apart event

Hearts Apart will meet 5:30-7 p.m. today in the family support center. Representatives will teach makeup techniques, and spouses will receive a paraffin hand treatment. Refreshments will be served. For reservations, call 884-5441.

Air National Guard

The Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing and 106th Maintenance Group in New York has full-time and part-time maintenance positions available. Open positions include aerospace ground equipment mechanic, engine mechanic, survival equipment, munitions and aircraft mechanic. For more information, call Col. Robert Landsiedel at DSN 456-7497 or (800) 856-3573, ext. 7497.

Eglin spouses' club

The Eglin Officers' Spouses' Club is hosting a live charity auction at 6 p.m. March 3 in the Eglin Officers' Club. Cost is \$5. For more information, call Tori Reppart at 651-1386 or Gina Langley at 651-7053. Also, the EOSC is sponsoring a used book sale 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Eglin Air Force Base library. The proceeds will benefit the library. For more information, call Jan Exterkamp at 987-5083.

At the movies

Prices are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children age 6 and older. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Base theater – 884-7648

Friday – Grandma's Boy (R) By day, 35-year-old Alex is the world's oldest video game tester, but by night, he is privately developing the next big game for the X-Box generation. When one of his roommates spends all the rent money on Taiwanese hookers, Alex is kicked out of his apartment, and finds himself forced to live with his grandmother and her friends Grace and Bea.

Saturday – Hoodwinked (PG) Furry and feathered cops from the animal world, Chief Grizzly and Detective Bill Stork, investigate a domestic disturbance at Granny's cottage, involving a girl, a wolf and an axe. The charges are many: breaking and entering, disturbing the peace, intent to eat, and wielding an axe without a license.

Sunday – Casanova (R) When Giacomo Casanova discovered Francesca Bruni, he met his ultimate romantic match, succumbing to the only woman ever to refuse his charms. Not only a dashing rebel and wit, Casanova is also a vulnerable man who is chasing after love.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone number is provided for patrons to confirm dates.)

Base chapel

Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education: September – May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)

11:30 a.m.

(Contemporary worship)

Religious

Education:

August – May

Youth and

Singles groups

available



Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving

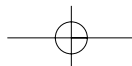
For a free, confidential ride home, call AADD at 884-8844. Don't drink and drive.

24-hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline:

Hurlburt Field – 884-6322

Air Force – (800) 538-8429

Department of Defense – (800) 424-9098



Classes

ERAU

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Spring B registration starts Monday for seniors and graduate

students only. Registration for all others starts Tuesday and runs through March 17. The Spring B term runs March 20 - May 21.

For more information, call 581-2106, or visit www.erau.edu/fortwaltonbeach to view the schedule of classes online.

OWC fast track

Enrollment is open at Okaloosa-Walton College for an eight-week fast track term beginning Monday. For more information, call the OWC Hurlburt Field office at 884-6296 or visit www.owc.edu.

RED HORSE, Continued from Page 2

ly inexperienced staff in our deployment cell, but we thought we had worked through our processes enough that we'd smoke the inspection. The troops in the deployment cell worked their tails off getting ready for the ORI, but their experience level just wasn't high enough to realize that we had some serious problems.

Then, literally during the August inspection, we got two highly experienced NCOs in the squadron who made all the difference in the world.

Master Sgt. Jim Crouse and Tech. Sgt. Lisa Hodge are miracle workers, as far as I'm concerned. They basically threw all our books in the garbage and started us over from scratch. They made us unlearn everything we had learned over the summer – most-

ly bad habits – and trained us into a highly competent mobility unit. They went to off-station classes to make themselves smarter and brought in a lot of smart folks from outside the squadron to do quality checks on our processes. They were tough on the squadron and refused to settle for anything less than perfect.

Of course they couldn't do everything by themselves. Failing that first ORI was a tremendous blow to our ego, and we had to drop a lot of baggage in order to approach the ORI retake with the right mindset. My hat also goes off to all the troops in the squadron for taking a step back from the August ORI and being willing to relearn everything and dedicated to getting it right.

Now that the ORI is in our

rearview mirror, I'd like to share a couple of lessons learned.

First, if you don't have the right people in the right positions in your squadron, get them. Borrow people from other units, bring them in or get the incumbents the right training early enough to prepare you correctly for an inspection.

Second, don't take anything for granted. If you've been practicing and exercising, think you've got it licked and are feeling nice and comfy, you're probably wrong. Bring in experts from your major command to go through your processes and paperwork with a fine-toothed comb. If your MAJCOM experts tell you you're okay but the IG doesn't, then there are issues way above your pay grade that the MAJCOM needs to sort

through. Failing an ORI is one of the most painful experiences a unit can go through, so think outside the box as you prepare and always get a second opinion.

Finally, I want to pass on my gratitude to the 16th Special Operations Wing for all the support they gave us as we were getting healthy again between August and February.

The 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 16th Mission Support Squadron, 16th Medical Group, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, 16th Communications Squadron and a host of others were very instrumental to our success.

At times, these folks would drop what they were doing to help us out, and we couldn't have done it without them.

FLIPPER, Continued from Page 10

mer army rank and status occurred in 1898. His ninth and final effort resulted in legislation introduced into the Senate in 1924. None of the bills gained enough support or interest; all died quietly in committees.

Henry Flipper died in 1940 at the age of 84, never knowing that his rank would someday be restored.

Clearing His Name

It was the Civil Rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s and a concerted effort

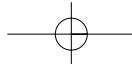
by historians to tell the story of all Americans that brought attention to the circumstances surrounding Flipper's dismissal. The case was reviewed by the Army Board for Correction of Military records. In late 1976, the

board changed Flipper's dismissal to an honorable discharge. While acknowledging that Flipper had falsified reports and lied to his commanding officer, the board ruled that the sentence of the court and its approval by the

president was "... unduly harsh, and therefore unjust."

In the 1999 Executive Grant of Clemency, President Clinton granted "a full and unconditional pardon to Lieutenant Henry Ossian Flipper."

HOUSE ACCOUNT
FULL/CS/VOLUNTEE
608434
4 X 5.00





Men's varsity team finishes season with heart

by Staff Sgt.
Mareshah Haynes
COMMANDO staff

The men's varsity basketball team brought home fourth place from the Southeastern Men's Athletic Conference double elimination tournament Saturday and Sunday at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

There were eight teams total in the conference. Tyndall defeated Hurlburt 74-61 in the semi finals.

Hurlburt's first game was against local rivals, Eglin. Hurlburt asserted a 10-point lead early in the first half. Eglin went on a three-point shooting spree, but Hurlburt's defense held for the victory.

The final score was 78-70. In their second game

Saturday, the Commandos faced off against the team from Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Hurlburt jumped to an early lead.

In a dramatic turn of events three minutes into the game Jermaine Rollins, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, took a nasty fall after dunking over three Moody defenders. His arm was broken in two places.

"When he went down I was so excited about the play I didn't realize he was hurt until I saw he wasn't getting up," said Mario Webb, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron.

Despite the loss of their teammate, Hurlburt struggled to keep the lead.

It was a virtual tug-of-war on the court until midway through the second half when Moody pulled away.

The loss put Hurlburt in the loser's bracket.

The Commandos sank Mayport Naval Station, Fla., Sunday, 87-68.

One hour later, Hurlburt battled Tyndall Air Force Base neck-and-neck on the hardwood.

Unexpectedly, Hurlburt's power forward Alonzo Porter injured his back in the second quarter and was unable to play the rest of the game. The Commando's were down to six players.

"I just remember being very tired and looking at our bench and there was no one there," Webb said.

The game was tied at half-time. In the second half there were several lead changes before Tyndall edged out a late lead.

"I feel we played really

good. Even though we only had eight players, we intimidated the other teams with our performance," said Davon Martin, Air Force Special Operations Command Regional Supply Squadron. "We came down with eight players and left with six. We played with a lot of heart."

Rollins and Martin were selected for the all SEMAC team.

This is Martin's second year on the all SEMAC team.

"I feel really honored; I just try to be consistent," Martin said.

Robins AFB placed first in the tournament, Tyndall AFB second, Moody AFB third, Keesler Air Force Base fifth, Mayport N.S. sixth, Eglin AFB seventh and MacDill Air Force Base placed eighth.



In the bleachers

Okaloosa baseball

Registration for the Okaloosa men's baseball league 18-and-over and 30-and-over divisions is at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Twin Oaks baseball field in Niceville. League fees are \$155 for 30-and-over players and \$145 for under-30 players. The games begin April 1 and are played in the Okaloosa County area. For more information, call 864-7529 or visit www.ombl.org.

Softball tournament

The fourth annual Commando Softball Preseason Intramural Tournament will be held March 18 at the base softball fields. The entry fee is \$125 for each team providing their own .44/.47 cor ball. The tournament will be double elimination following ASA intramural rules. The entry deadline is March 15. For more information call Chuck Shepard at 884-3656 or Scott Bowen at 884-7421.

Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society Emerald Coast Area is recruiting teams to participate in Relay For Life – a unique community event that allows individuals from all walks of life to join in the fight against cancer. This year's Navarre Relay For Life will take place April 7-8 at Navarre High School. The kick-off celebration will be held Tuesday. For more information, call 244-3813.

Fit Eagle

The 16th Services Squadron has opened registration for Fit Eagle 2006. Team rosters are due by noon Thursday, and the competition takes place today at the Aderholt Fitness Center. There can be up to two teams per squadron, with a limit of 30 teams on base. Teams must have three men – one over 30, one over 40 – and one of any age. Teams must also have two women of any age on their team. A legitimate attempt must be made to find females in your own squadron before recruiting from another squadron. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tamara Rosa at 884-6884.

Rugby season

Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base are looking for players for Rugby season. For more information call Lt. Col. John Colletta at 882-2191.

Paintball tournament

The 16th Electronic Warfare Squadron Ravens will hold a paintball tournament April 7-8 for the first 30 teams to sign up. The double-elimination tournament will follow speed ball rules. Field paint use is a must. Cost is \$100 for every five-man team. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Adrian Getzlaff at 882-0709 or Senior Airman Robert O'Bannon at 882-0710.

Volunteer coaches

The youth center is looking for volunteer coaches for youth baseball and girls softball teams. Application packages are available at the youth center. For more information, call 884-6355.

Sports information

For more information about intramural sports or standings, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.